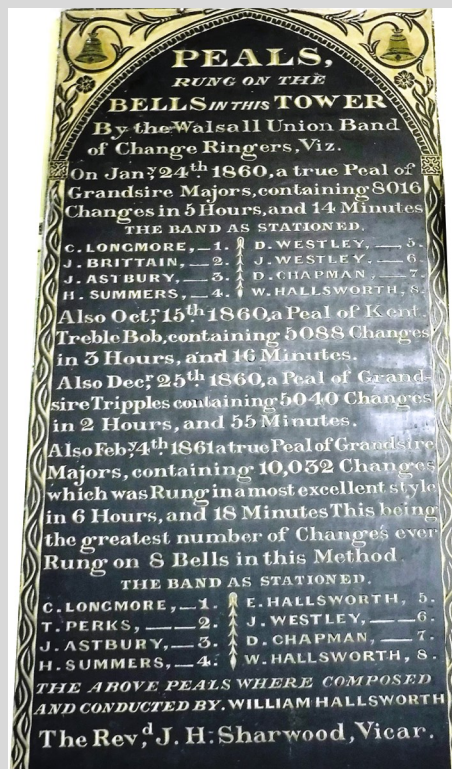


Why learn to ring?

- Skill for life
- Gentle workout for mind and body
- Great English tradition
- Celebration of church, royal and national events
- Team activity
- Chance to visit amazing buildings throughout the country
- Glorious sound

Ringers come from all walks of life and range in age from teens to nineties.



English Change Ringing

This style of ringing was developed in the 16th century. It involves ringing bells in patterns so that the order of bells is never repeated; this is known as a "method". Methods have names such as Grandsire Doubles or Cambridge Surprise Maximus.

A "peal" is when over 5000 changes are made and this takes more than three hours of continuous ringing. Some significant peals are recorded on Peal Boards around the Tower, including one taking over 6 hours.

Could I learn?

Yes! It's like learning to ride a bicycle. Some people learn quicker than others, but once you can do it, you don't forget. It takes about three months to handle a bell safely and then you can join in with others. Most ringers practise each week ... and you never finish learning! And naturally there's a social side, with a drink or a barbecue from time to time.

You don't have to read music, but you do have to count and concentrate. You don't have to be very strong - it's more about technique and coordination.

So, yes; you can learn.



Ringers say

"I started ringing at the age of 40 and wish I had started as a teenager when a school friend invited me." **Oilly**



"I've really value the support I've had from John while learning." **Steph**



"I used bell ringing as the Service part of my Duke of Edinburgh's Award." **Harriet**

"I like ringing methods because every bell is equally important to the overall sound." **Matt**



"It's a joy to ring with such a friendly and loyal band" **John**



I started ringing in 1960. I was the youngest ringer but had such good fun. Our social nights in the pub after practices were notable, even though I was under age! **Diana**

The Bells

There are 13 bells at St Matthew's. The heaviest (the "tenor") weighs 1.3 tonnes. Often we ring 6 or 8 bells, sometimes 10 and 12.

In the 17th century there were 8 bells. After WW1 these were melted down, extra metal was added to make a ring of 12, fitted by Taylor's of Loughborough in 1928, and a 13th added in 1962. The 13th bell allows us to ring a different scale.

Ringling

Beginner practice

Monday 6.00 - 7.00 pm

General practice

Wednesday 7.30 - 9.00 pm

Church Service

Sunday 9.50 - 10.30 am

Contacts

Tower Captain

John Edlin

01922 626520

www.stmatthewswalsall.co.uk

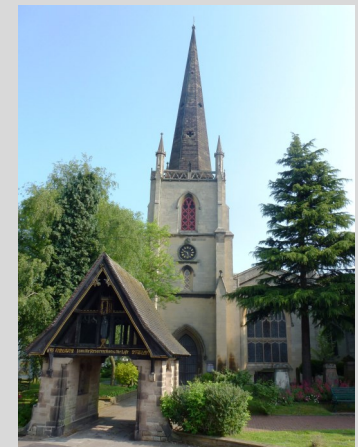
www.lwascr.org.uk



Bells at St Matthew's Church Walsall



A skill for life



Join the band